

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the liquid phase process is a reversed micelle process and claims 3 and 4 have been amended accordingly. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the high-pressure mixing method is a one-jet mixing process based on, for example, page 17 of the specification.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1 to 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Murray et al. (US 2001/009119) in view of Thumm et al. (US 6,221,332).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of manufacturing a magnetic particle, comprising: the alloy particle preparation step of preparing an alloy particle capable of forming a CuAu type or Cu₃Au type hard magnetic ordered alloy phase and the magnetic particle formation step; wherein in said alloy particle preparation step, a plurality of kinds of solutions for preparing said alloy particle are mixed together and caused to react with each other in a mixing field by a liquid phase process and at least one of said plurality of kinds of solutions is mixed by a high-pressure mixing method which involves supplying the solution to the mixing field by a high-pressure jet stream of not less than 1 MPa. The liquid phase process is a reversed micelle process and the high-pressure mixing method is a one jet mixing process.

Murray teaches a method of manufacturing a CuAu type magnetic particles. Thumm is cited as teaching that pressurized reactant steams having pressures of 8,000 to 50,000 (55 to 345 Mpa) improves the mixing of reactants, results in more efficient reaction, and provides a more uniform smaller particle size product. See col. 1, lines 55-68 and 16, lines 37-45.

Neither Murray nor Thumm discloses a reversed micelle process, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, even if there is some motivation to combine Murray and Thumm, the combination would not result in the present invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Moreover, each of claims 2-16 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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